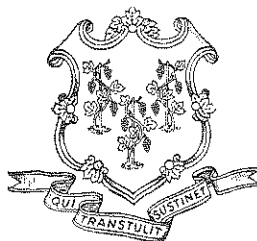


SENATOR CARLO LEONE
Deputy President Pro Tempore

Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Tel. 860-240-0589
Toll-free 1-800-842-1420
www.SenatorLeone.ct.gov



State of Connecticut

SENATE

Twenty-seventh District

Chair
General Law Committee
Transportation Committee

Vice Chair
Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee

Member
Commerce Committee

TESTIMONY OF STATE SENATOR CARLO LEONE ON SB 317: AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers, Representative Steinberg, and honorable members of the Public Health Committee, my name is State Senator Carlo Leone and I am testifying today in support of SB 317: "An Act Concerning Community-Based Health Care Services."

In 2015 we passed PA 15-5. In Sec. 359 it created a study of Community-Based Health Care Services. Under this act it required DSS and DPH commissioners to study the effectiveness of providing community-based health care services in our state. It also required that they submit a preliminary report on this study by February 1, 2016 and a final report by June 1, 2016, to the Human Services and Public Health committees.

The public demands a quality healthcare system to help them live longer and healthier while keeping costs low. I believe community-based health care services are important to our state. This study was to review:

1. the health care needs of people who use the 9-1-1 system when the emergency department is not the most appropriate place for them to receive community-based health care services;
2. the feasibility of providing short-term follow-up home visits for people recently discharged from a hospital until other providers are able to provide home visits or other follow-up health care services;
3. the need for, and feasibility of, emergency medical services (EMS) personnel providing home visits to people at a high risk of being frequent, repeat users of the emergency department, to help them manage chronic diseases and adhere to medication plans;
4. the need to provide ancillary primary care services for populations in areas with high 9-1-1 use for nonemergency situations;
5. the current best practices in mobile integrated health care;
6. the scope of practice for EMS personnel;
7. practice guidelines for community-based health care services; and
8. Medicaid authority to cover these services.

It was only brought to my attention yesterday that the report was completed. Though I have not seen this report, I would still like this proposal to move forward because community-based health services can enhance patient quality of care while helping to keep costs low. It would bridge the gap between hospital discharge and ongoing wellness by having specially-trained paramedics assist in understanding and managing their conditions at home.

I thank you for considering this bill, and I look forward to assisting in any way I can.